

REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed the Notice of Allowance mailed on May 5, 2011, including the Examiner's Amendments and the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Applicants, in lieu of paying the Issue Fee, have elected to file a Request for Continued Examination to clarify the subject matter of the claims.

The claim amendments presented above amend the claims, as allowed (i.e., as were listed in the Examiner's Amendments). Applicants have incorporated the Examiner's Amendments included with the Notice of Allowance prior to making the present amendments. Additionally, the listing of claims included in the Examiner's Amendments contains language that was not included in the previous version of claims submitted by the Applicants on February 23, 2010. Applicants have, however, included that language when amending the claims. For instance, lines 6-7 of Applicants' previously submitted claim 1 recited "performing a lookup of the ARL table based on a source address contained in the incoming datagram to determine whether the source address has been learned previously", while the listing of claim 1 in the Examiner's Amendments recited "performing a lookup of the ARL table based on a source address contained in the incoming datagram to determine whether the source address **contained in the incoming datagram to determine whether the source address** has been learned previously." (*Additional language emphasized*)

Applicants have amended claims 1, 6-9, 13-15 and 19. Applicants have added claims 21-22. Applicants have not added any new matter by these amendments or new claims. Applicants have not canceled any claims. Claims 3, 5, 10 and 16 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11-15 and 17-22 are now pending in the application, of which claim 1, 8 and 14 are independent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are still in condition for allowance. As recited in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the prior art does not disclose:

Determining whether other network devices have learned a source address when the source address has been learned previously by examining a learned all devices tag for the source address in the ARL table; and when it is determined that the other network devices have not learned the source address: sending, by a network device, a learning message with the source address to the other network devices; and re-sending, by the network device, the learning message to the other network devices until the learning message is returned to the network device from one of the other network devices.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims, as amended, recites the subject matter that was indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, the pending claims, as amended, are allowable on at least these bases.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request notification of such allowance. The Examiner may telephone Applicants' attorney (360-930-3533) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intended to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3521.

Respectfully submitted,

Brake Hughes Bellerman LLP

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